(b) and (c) These indicate the willingness of ULFA to hold talks with the Government of India, but there has been no change in the preconditions for holding talks, *viz,* their "core demand" of sovereignty.

(d) In reply, it has been reiterated that the Government of India is willing to talk to all groups, which were prepared to abjure the path of violence, but without preconditions.

**Naxalism in U.P.**

† 2408. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the districts of Uttar Pradesh which are affected by naxalism;

(b) whether the State Government have requested to provide a contingent of Central Reserve Police Force on Central Government's expenditure to put an effective curb on naxalites in naxal affected districts;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by Central Government on State Government's request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) 3 districts of Uttar Pradesh, namely, Sonebhadra, Mirzapur and Chandauli are affected by naxalism. As requested by the State Government, one battalion of CRPF has been deployed in the State for anti-naxalite operations. The State has been exempted from the payment of cost of depolyment of CPMFs on anti-naxalite duty for 3 years *w.e.f.* 1.7.2004.

**Modernization of BSF**

2409. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is. a fact that Government had taken a decision to modernize the BSF and take care of its needs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government had received any proposal to rehabilitate the dependents of BSF jawans; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government had approved a five year scheme for Modernization of BSF alongwith 5 other Central Para Military Forces which is under implementation since 2002 with an estimated outlay of Rs. 2330.85 crores. The scheme envisages equipping the force with better weaponry, enhanced mobility, advanced communication and surveillance equipment, special protective gear and modern training aids etc.

(c) and (d) The Government have received a proposal for creation of a Board for Welfare and Rehabilitation of the Next of Kins of personnel of Central Police Organisations (CPOs) killed in action and those who suffer disabilities. The proposal is under consideration.

**Special grant to modernize police in Gujarat**

2410. SHRI LAUTBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal for a special grant to modernize and equip the Police Force of the State;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal; and

(c) whether any specific assistance is being considered for borders with Pakistan in Banaskantha and Kutch districts of Gujarat to check illegal migrants and to protect the borders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The State Government of Gujarat has sent their annual plan for modernization of the State police for 2005-06 which is being finalized.

(c) Under the Coastal Security Scheme, assistance is provided to the Coastal States and Union Territories for strengthening infrastructure for patrolling and surveillance of the coastal areas by setting up police stations